

Green Mountain Book Award

Handbook

2013-2014



**Compiled by
the Green Mountain Book Award Committee**

State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0601
<http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Winners of the Green Mountain Book Award	3
GMBA Masterlist	4
How to Apply for the Committee	7
Book Suggestion Form	8
Andrews: Me and Earl and the Dying Girl	9
Blake: Anna Dressed in Blood	11
Bray: Beauty Queens	13
Green: The Fault in Our Stars	15
Hartman: Seraphina	17
Johnson: The Name of the Star	19
Lyga: I Hunt Killers	21
McBride: Hold Me Closer, Necromancer	24
Morgenstern: Night Circus	26
Ness: A Monster Calls	29
Oppel: This Dark Endeavor	32
Riggs: Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	34
Schreier: The School for Dangerous Girls	36
Stiefvater: Scorpio Races	38
Wein: Code Name Verity	40
Student GMBA Checklist	42

INTRODUCTION

The Green Mountain Book Award is the student-selected award for Vermonters in grades 9-12. In 2005 it joined the other two Vermont child-selected book awards, the Red Clover Award, a picture book award for children in Kindergarten-grade 4, and the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, a book award for students in grades 4-8.

Mission statement

The goal of the award is to select a list of books of good literary quality that:

- Engages high school students.
- Represents a variety of genres, formats and viewpoints.
- May include books written both for young people and adults.
- Reflects the interests of high school students.

Criteria for choosing books

To be eligible for the Green Mountain Book Award list, a book must:

- Have been published in the last 3 years
- Have received two favorable reviews in professionally recognized review sources (if possible)

In addition, there may be only one book by an author on any given list.

Timetable

Voting for the winner of the Green Mountain Book Award in May. The committee recommends that in order to be eligible to vote, a student should read at least three books on the masterlist.

The new list is selected and put on both the Department of Libraries website

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba> and the GMBA website

<https://sites.google.com/site/greenmountainbookaward/>.

Book Sets

The Department of Libraries has multiple copies of each book on the masterlist, and will send them out on interlibrary loan. Please contact Linda Willis-Pendo at

linda.willis-pendo@state.vt.us to reserve or borrow them.

Materials available

There are bookmarks that list the nominees for the 2013-2014 award, spine labels and posters. If you would like any of these items, please call or email Grace Greene at the Department of

Libraries: 828-6954; email: grace.greene@state.vt.us

Website

There is a brand new GMBA website this year created and maintained by Sue Monmaney, librarian at Montpelier High School: <https://sites.google.com/site/greenmountainbookaward/>. This website is for students, teachers and librarians. In addition, materials can be found at the Department of Libraries website: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>

This year's committee consisted of: Erikka Adams, Librarian, Lake Region Union High School, Orleans; Marilee Attley, Librarian, Brattleboro Union High School; Rebecca Cook, Library Director, Poultney Public Library; Toni Eubanks, Library Director, Glover Public Library and Barton Public Library; Maria Harris, Director, Enosburgh Public Library; Jessica Langlois; Kat Redniss, Library Assistant - Young Adult and Youth Services, Brownell Library, Essex Junction; Sarah Sturm, student, Essex High School; Matthew Swinson; Margaret Woodruff, Director, Charlotte Public Library; and Grace Greene, Youth Services Consultant, Department of Libraries, Liaison to Committee.

Winners of the Green Mountain Book Award

2012 - Patrick Ness. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. Candlewick, 2008.

2011 - Kristin Cashore. *Graceling*. Harcourt, 2008.

2010 - Neal Shusterman. *Unwind*. S & S, 2007.

2009 - Ellen Hopkins. *Crank*. SimonPulse, 2004.

2008 - John Green. *Looking for Alaska*. Dutton, 2005.

2007 - Jodi Picoult. *My Sister's Keeper*. S & S, 2004.

2006 - Angela Johnson. *The First Part Last*. S & S, 2003.

Green Mountain Book Award Master List 2013-2014

This is the ninth year of the Green Mountain Book Award, a reader's choice award for students in grades 9-12. Co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Vermont School Library Association, this program is designed to introduce to high school students some excellent books for their pleasure reading.

These books, to be read during the 2013-2014 school year, comprise the master list for the award to be made in 2014. Voting forms will be made available to all Vermont schools and public libraries in the spring so that young adults can vote for their favorite book. The master list titles have been selected to satisfy the reading interests of teens in grades 9-12, and include both adult and young adult books. All books on the list were first published in 2008-2012.

Andrews, Jesse. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. Amulet, 2012. \$16.95. ISBN 978-1-4197-0176-4.

Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.

Blake, Kendare. *Anna Dressed in Blood*. Tor Teen, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-7653-2867-0 (pap.); Tor Teen, 2011. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-7653-2865-6.

For three years, seventeen-year-old Cas Lowood has carried on his father's work of dispatching the murderous dead, traveling with his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat, but everything changes when he meets Anna, a girl unlike any ghost he has faced before.

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*. Scholastic, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-4398-9598-9 (pap.); Scholastic Press, 2011. \$18.99. ISBN 978-0-4398-9597-2.

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition.

Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars*. Dutton, 2012. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-5254-7881-2.

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina*. Random, 2012. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3758-6656-2.

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

- Johnson, Maureen. *The Name of the Star*. Speak, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-1424-2205-2 (pap.); Putnam, 2011. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-3992-5660-8.
Rory, of B nouville, Louisiana, is spending a year at a London boarding school when she witnesses a murder by a Jack the Ripper copycat and becomes involved with the very unusual investigation.
- Lyga, Barry. *I Hunt Killers*. Little, Brown, 2013. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-3161-2583-3 (pap.); Little, Brown, 2012. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-3161-2584-0.
Seventeen-year-old Jazz learned all about being a serial killer from his notorious "Dear Old Dad," but believes he has a conscience that will help fight his own urges and right some of his father's wrongs, so he secretly helps the police apprehend the town's newest murderer, "The Impressionist."
- McBride, Lish. *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer*. Square Fish, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-3126-7437-3 (pap.); Holt, 2010. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-8050-9098-7.
Sam LaCroix, a Seattle fast-food worker and college dropout, discovers that he is a necromancer, part of a world of harbingers, werewolves, satyrs, and one particular necromancer who sees Sam as a threat to his lucrative business of raising the dead.
- Morgenstern, Erin. *Night Circus*. Anchor, 2012. \$15.00. ISBN 978-0-3077-4443-2 (pap.); Knopf, 2011. \$26.95. ISBN 978-0-3855-3463-5.
Waging a fierce competition for which they have trained since childhood, circus magicians Celia and Marco unexpectedly fall in love with each other and share a fantastical romance that manifests in fateful ways.
- Ness, Patrick. *A Monster Calls*. Candlewick, 2013. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-7636-6065-9 (pap.); Candlewick, 2011. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-7636-5559-4.
Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.
- Oppel, Kenneth. *This Dark Endeavor*. S & S, 2012. \$9.99. ISBN 978-1-4424-0316-1 (pap.); S & S, 2011. \$17.99. ISBN 978-1-4424-0315-4.
When his twin brother falls ill in the family's chateau in the independent republic of Geneva in the eighteenth century, sixteen-year-old Victor Frankenstein embarks on a dangerous and uncertain quest to create the forbidden Elixir of Life described in an ancient text in the family's secret Bibliotheka Obscura.
- Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Quirk Books, 2011. \$17.99. ISBN 978-1-5947-4476-1.
A horrific family tragedy sends sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of an old orphanage that was home to children who were more than just peculiar, but possibly dangerous--and who may still be alive. Illustrated with vintage found photographs.

Schreier, Eliot. *The School for Dangerous Girls*. Scholastic, 2010. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-5450-3529-3 (pap.); Scholastic Press, 2009. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-5450-3528-6.

Sent to a remote, run-down reform school in Colorado, fifteen-year-old Angela is placed with the better girls, but upon learning that her "dangerous" friends are being isolated and left to live as animals, she takes radical steps to join them and help them escape.

Stiefvater, Maggie. *Scorpio Races*. Scholastic, 2013. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-5452-2491-8 (pap.); Scholastic Press, 2011. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-5452-2490-1.

Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

Wein, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity*. Hyperion, 2012. \$16.99. ISBN 978-1-4231-5219-4.

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

How to Apply for the Committee

The Green Mountain Book Award Committee consists of 10 adult volunteers and the Youth Services Consultant from the Vermont Department of Libraries. Committee members serve for three years, with an option of a second term. When there is an opening we advertise it through listservs and newsletters. We look for people who work with high school students and are passionate about books. School librarians, public librarians, teachers and community members are all urged to apply.

New this year are two slots for teens. Teens serve one year at a time, with the possibility of renewal.

Adults who are interested in applying should submit a letter of interest, a resume and two reviews, one positive and one negative of any books of your choice. Teens need to write the two reviews and fill out this form:

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/gmba/TeenCommitteeApplication.pdf>

All application materials should be sent to:

Grace Greene
Youth Services Consultant
Vermont Dept. of Libraries
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
grace.greene@state.vt.us

Guidelines for writing reviews

1. Book reviews should be between 200 and 1,000 words in length.
2. Each review should include a brief descriptive summary and an assessment of appeal to high school students.
3. Reviews should touch on the quality of the following features:

For Nonfiction:

- Authority and responsibility of the author
- Organization
- Writing style
- Illustrations
- Design
- Documentation of sources

For Poetry:

- Sound (rhyme, meter)
- Imagery
- Ideas

For Fiction:

- Plot
- Integration of background material
- Pacing
- Mood
- Characterization
- Point of view
- Setting
- Writing style
- Theme

Book Suggestion for the Green Mountain Book Award

Snail mail or email by October 1, 2013 to:

Grace Greene
Youth Services Consultant
Vermont Department of Libraries
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
grace.greene@state.vt.us

Name _____ Grade (if a student) _____

School or library _____

Title of Book _____

Author _____

Publisher and date of publication _____

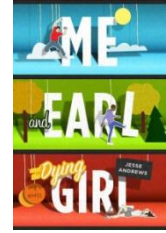
To be eligible for consideration by the Green Mountain Book Award Committee for the 2014-2015 Masterlist, the book must have been first published in 2011-2013, and must be of interest to students in grades 9-12. Both adult and young adult books are eligible, and the authors can be of any nationality. It is no longer a requirement that a book be available in paperback.

Do not include plot summaries, but please tell the committee why you think this book belongs on the GMBA list. Use as much space as you need.

This book should be on the list because:

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL

by Jesse Andrews



Genre: Realistic Fiction

Themes: Friendship, Coming-of-Age, Leukemia/Cancer, Death, High School, Families, Humor

Author information: Jesse Andrews is a novelist, musician, and screenwriter. He was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, and is a graduate of Harvard University. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. It was not until college that he even made out with a girl for more than five minutes. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* is his first novel.

Book summary: Greg is friends with everyone and no one at his high school, an amazing feat after 17 years with the same people. Well, he has one friend - Earl. He and Earl have two very different families yet bond over one thing – the love of a quality film. For fun he and Earl secretly make films that are remakes of classics. But his life changes drastically when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once made fun of in elementary school, who is now diagnosed with cancer.

Booktalk: You hate high school. You've made it 17 years with the same people without having to befriend a single one. Graduation looms, freedom is near....Then one day your mom sabotages everything. She tells you about a girl named Rachel who is going to be your new friend. And oh yeah, Rachel might be dying. And you're going to cheer her up. What to do? What to say? Thus begins the story of hilarity and hijinks between Greg, Earl, and Rachel.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Sociology

How do people of different ages deal with losing young people or peers? In comparison, how accurate a portrayal is this story of showing a young person's response?

Health

Greg intentionally has no friends. How did this affect his life? What role should or do close friends play in the lives of teens/your life?

What are ways to support a friend who may be in a life changing situation?

Discussion questions:

- Earl's character is not very developed. Was he still a believable character? Was Earl necessary to the story - why or why not?
- Would you re-write the ending of the story and if so, how?
- Greg and Earl react differently to Rachel's illness. Are they both realistic responses? Did other people respond to or notice their reactions?
- How did you relate to Greg's character? Do you think the way Rachel accepted him would be true if this were a real life situation?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*. Scholastic Press, 2011. (on this year's GMBA list)
Chabon, Michel. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. Random, 2000.
Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. Hyperion, 2008.
Paulsen, Gary. *Crush*. Wendy Lamb, 2012.
Pierson, D.C. *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To*. Vintage, 2010.
Pratchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men*. HarperCollins, 2008.
Rennison, Louise. *Angus Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging*. HarperTeen, 2000.

Other books by the author:

This is the author's first novel.

Additional resources:

Author's website: www.jesseandrews.com

ANNA DRESSED IN BLOOD

by Kendare Blake



Genre: Horror, Horror/Comedy, Supernatural

Themes: Friendship, Ghosts, High School, Parents, Trust

Author information: Kendare Blake was born in South Korea and was raised in the United States by Caucasian parents. She studied business at Ithaca College in New York State, and went on to receive a Master's degree in writing from Middlesex University in London. She has published three novels and several short stories.

Plot summary: Cas's calling as a killer of ghosts takes him from town to town, and when he arrives in Thunder Bay, he expects it to be like all the rest. A glimpse of Anna Dressed in Blood, however, tells him things will be very different this time. Joined by a new group of friends, Cas must face the ghost who's haunted him for many years... with a little help from unexpected places.

Booktalk: Cas lives a normal, routine kind of life. Move to a town, blend in, kill a ghost. Move to another town, blend in, kill a ghost. Armed with his father's magic knife, and accompanied by his mother and their faithful, ghost-sniffing, thoroughly annoying cat Tybalt, he lives like this and is quite content. Until he moves to Thunder Bay. There he encounters new foods, new friends, and a new ghost like no other... Anna Dressed in Blood.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Health

Many teens, like Cas, experience insomnia and have trouble sleeping through the night. Research sleep hygiene and identify two elements you could change that might allow you to sleep better. Try changing them for one week, and keep a journal of how your sleep changes as a result.

Religion

Cas's mother practices Wiccan traditions such as herbalism and crystal healing, but in the end, her work is used to assist in a Voodoo ceremony. Research traditional Voodoo practices and examine how they relate or compare to other religions.

Discussion Questions:

- After his father dies, Cas and his mother move around from place to place, never staying long. Why do you think this kind of lifestyle appeals to Cas? Would it appeal to you?
- Reread Cas's description of queen bees on pp. 42-44. Is this a fair description of popularity? Is it an accurate one?
- The author chose to tell this story using the present tense. How does this add to or detract from the story? How would it be different if told in the past tense?

- On page 172, Cas remarks that “[w]hen people see something supernatural, they rationalize it down to earth.” Do you think this could be true? Why might people not want to believe in the supernatural?

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Clare, Cassandra. *City of Bones*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007.
 Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline*. HarperCollins, 2002.
 Johnson, Maureen. *The Name of the Star*. Putnam Juvenile, 2011. (on this year’s GMBA list)
 Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Raven Boys*. Scholastic, 2012.
 Yovanoff, Brenna. *The Replacement*. Razorbill, 2010.
 Yovanoff, Brenna. *The Space Between*. Razorbill, 2011.

Other books by this author:

Sleepwalk Society. PRA Publishing, 2010.
Girl of Nightmares. Tor Teen, 2012. (sequel to *Anna Dressed in Blood*)

Additional resources:

Author’s website: <http://kendareblake.com/>

Kendare Blake’s Blog: http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4086715.Kendare_Blake/blog

Anna Dressed in Blood – Kendare Blake: <http://kendareblake.com/anna-dressed-in-blood.php> (Includes book trailer.)

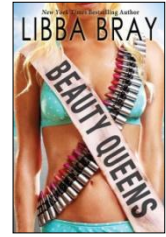
Author Interview: Kendare Blake: <http://www.bookchickcity.com/2013/01/author-interview-kendare-blake.html>

Author Interview: <http://www.jeanbooknerd.com/2012/08/kendare-blake-author-interview.html>

Haiti: Introduction to Voodoo: <http://www2.webster.edu/~corbetre/haiti/voodoo/overview.htm>

BEAUTY QUEENS

by Libba Bray



Genre: Humorous Fiction

Themes: Survival, Feminism, Girls, Friendship

Author information: Libba Bray lives in Brooklyn NY by way of Alabama (where she was born). She is snarky, nerdy, and wordy. Find out more about her at her blog @ libbrabray.wordpress.com.

Plot summary: When a plane crash strands a group of teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to stay upright in their heels while looking for food and shelter, not to steal or maim each other for make-up, and find out what a true beauty queen does when faced with life or death challenges.

Booktalk: What's your worst nightmare? Take a second and picture it...Ok. If you think that is bad, picture this – thirteen beauty contestants. Teen beauty contestants. On a plane. With all their stuff. A plane that crashes. With almost all their stuff. On a deserted island. Isn't that the stuff of nightmares? Will the story go all Hunger Games? Or maybe more Lord of the Flies? Read *Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray to find out...

Curriculum tie-ins:

Physical Education

Design a survival game where students of both sexes are broken into teams and given only “girly” things they have to use to get from one station to the next.

Health

In groups, discuss how being a girl today is similar and/or different from being a girl in the past. Have students take notes on sticky notes, then put the stickies on the board under the headings “Same” and “Different.” See which has more, discuss as class, especially any debated notes.

English

Write a constructed response that compares and contrasts society's definition of beauty with one of the following: how you define beauty, how you or your friends see beauty, or how beauty is portrayed in your favorite book.

Media Literacy

Make a multimedia project that encourages/shows support to teen girls to like who they are and the way they look.

Art

Create something that symbolizes your favorite character from the book, including things that really identified her in the book and why you liked her.

Discussion Questions:

- If you were on a desert island, which of these characters do you think you'd be most like?
- In the story, do the girls act differently around different people? Is this because girls and boys act differently in front of different groups of people in real life? If no one is watching, are you different than when you're with people? Why or why not?
- In what ways does this story make you rethink what beauty pageants and beauty queens are all about? How did it reinforce beauty pageant and beauty queen stereotypes? If it did both, can both be true at the same time? Why or why not?
- When Petra reveals her secret, the other girls act like she deceived them. She doesn't think it is a big deal. Did the other characters deceive the others at all? What about people in real life? How do people deceive themselves and others, in both subtle and obvious ways, to be who they want to be/feel they have to be?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Barnes, John. *Tales of the Madman Underground*. Viking, 2009.

Going, K.L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*. Putnam, 2003.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Doubleday, 2003.

Sachar, Louis. *The Cardturner*. Delacorte, 2010.

Zusak, Markus. *I am the Messenger*. Knopf, 2005.

Other books by this author:

The Gemma Doyle Trilogy:

A Great and Terrible Beauty. Delacorte, 2003.

Rebel Angels. Delacorte, 2005.

The Sweet Far Thing. Delacorte, 2007.

Going Bovine. Delacorte, 2009.

The Diviners. Little, Brown, 2012.

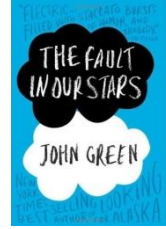
Additional resources:

Author's website: www.Libbabray.com Includes a guide for teachers to this book.

Author's Blog: www.libbabray.wordpress.com

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

by John Green



Genre: Coming of Age Fiction

Themes: Mortality, Courage, Romance, Identity, Meaning of Life

Author information: John Green is a New York Times bestselling author who has received numerous awards, including both the Printz Medal and a Printz Honor. Along with the successes of his books which include *Looking For Alaska*, he and his brother share a video blog call vlogbrothers which has over a million subscribers. Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/vlogbrothers>.

Plot summary: Two teens who meet at a cancer support group travel to Europe to get answers from a reclusive author they admire almost to the point of worship. Time is not on their side and the questions they need answered are as big as their meaning of life problems they face.

Booktalk: Smart (*quoting philosophers smart*) and beautiful (*Natalie Portman beautiful*) Hazel is urged by her parents to join a support group for her depression. It is absolute torture to go but she continues out of respect for her parents. A lot of kids want to make their parents happy, but Hazel realizes that the only thing worse than being a 16 year old with terminal cancer is being the parent of one. One day charismatic and compelling Augustus is introduced to the group. Their fast friendship turns into an intense romance as they both search for the answers of life.

Curriculum tie-ins:

English Literature

Symbolism: Discuss the use of the fictionalized book and author of *An Imperial Affliction* by Peter Van Houten. How does it help the story? How is it symbolic to the story? What other uses of symbolism are there in the book?

History/Social Studies

Hazel and Augustus discuss the current population of the earth compared to how many people have lived on it. Augustus was concerned about how much of the population is not remembered. To this point interview a local person (neighbor/grandparent/etc) and write about them.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a hero? Why does Gus want to be a hero? Is he?
- What is the meaning of the title: “The Fault In Our Stars”?
- What do you think of Kaitlyn’s character? Do you find her insensitive or supportive?
- Family support is another theme of this book. How do the different families cope?
- Have you ever wanted to contact an author to ask questions about a favorite book like Hazel does in this one? Which author would you talk to if you could?

- As a teen, do you think about your place in our universe? Have you found stories of your ancestors? How far back in your family's history do you know? How long in generations will a family member be remembered? Have you been to an old cemetery? Is everyone there remembered by someone living now either by 1st hand accounts or stories passed down?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. MTV Books, 1999.
 Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay*. Dutton, 2009.
 Oliver, Lauren. *Before I Fall*. HarperCollins, 2010.
 Zarr, Sara. *How to Save a Life*. Little, Brown, 2011.

Other books by this author:

Looking For Alaska. Dutton , 2005.
An Abundance of Katherines. Dutton, 2006.
Paper Towns. Dutton, 2008.
Will Grayson, Will Grayson. Dutton, 2010. (With David Levithan)

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://johnngreenbooks.com/the-fault-in-our-stars/>

<http://www.shmoop.com/fault-in-our-stars/>

<http://www.facebook.com/johngreenfans>

<http://www.twitter.com/realjohngreen>

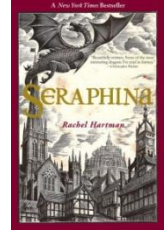
<http://tswgo.org/> - This book is dedicated to Esther Earl.

<http://onlyifyoufinishedtfios.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/interview-john-green-20120119-1q71w.html>

SERAPHINA

by Rachel Hartman



Genre: Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mystery

Themes: Coming of Age, Romance, Isolation, Family, Friendship

Author information: Rachel was born in Kentucky, but has lived a variety of places including Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, England, and Japan. She has a BA in Comparative Literature, although she insists it should have been a BS because her undergraduate thesis was called “Paradox and Parody in *Don Quixote* and the satires of Lucian.” She eschewed graduate school in favour of drawing comic books. She now lives in Vancouver, BC, with her family, their whippet, and a talking frog and salamander (who fight zombies)(really). There are a lot of zombies in the Pacific Northwest. (<http://rachelhartmanbooks.com/about/>).

Plot summary: Seraphina is a young woman with a secret. She is caught between the world of the much feared Dragons and the mistrustful Humans. The product of love between a human and a dragon, she doesn’t really belong with either group. However, when the Prince of Goredd turns up missing his head, Seraphina takes it upon herself to find his murderer. Even with the help of the bastard-prince Lucian Kiggs and her uncle, the scholar Orma, will she be able to stop a plot to upset the tenuous peace?

Booktalk: After decades of fear, the dragons and humans have finally brokered peace, but it’s shaky at best. They walk amongst us now, in human shapes. People are scared, all the time, as they can never really be certain who amongst a crowd of their fellows might hold a huge, fire-breathing monster within them. However, this doesn’t compare to the fear and revulsion they would feel if they knew about me. So I have to hide what I am, from everyone. Shut away from the world, never growing close to anyone. Until I found out about the others like me. I am not alone. We are the children of dragons and men. Feared and hated by both, but maybe we could have each other, if we aren’t found out first.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies/Art/Mythology

Create a patron saint for something modern (the internet, office chairs, airplanes) complete with symbols, back story and iconic image

Mathematics

Explore the idea of math and science as a religion. Create symbolism, mythology, and deities within different kinds of mathematics and sciences (astrophysics, calculus, geometry, etc).

Discussion questions:

- Why is Seraphina’s father so afraid of her being discovered? Is it fear for her, himself or his work?

- Does Seraphina hate her mother? Her father?
- Do you agree with the Dragon's belief that emotions are the cause of humanity's problems?
- Would Seraphina's life be easier if she were a human or if she were a dragon? Explain.
- Do you agree with Seraphina's cockroach metaphor?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Bardugo, Leigh. *Shadow and Bone*. Holt, 2012.
 Durst, Sarah Beth. *Vessel*. McElderry, 2012.
 Pratchett, Terry. *Guards, Guards*. Doubleday, 1991.

Other books by this author:

Seraphina is Rachel Hartman's debut novel

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://rachelhartmanbooks.com/>

Dragon myths and roles in different cultures: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon>

Information on Saint worship: http://catholicism.about.com/od/thesaints/p/Patron_Saints.htm

THE NAME OF THE STAR

by Maureen Johnson



Genre: Mystery/Horror

Themes: London, Boarding School, Friendship, Ghosts, Murder

Author information: Maureen Johnson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Like a lot of people who end up writing books, she was always reading. This paid off in the end, but also resulted in her not playing any sports, so she is spectacularly uncoordinated, and is easily injured by harmless household objects, like endtables. She studied writing and theatrical dramaturgy at Columbia University. Before she could spend all her days writing, Maureen served up hamburgers in the company of mad scientists and talking skeletons in New York, tended bar in Piccadilly Circus, nervously worked alongside live tigers in Las Vegas, and once got mixed up with the entire cast of a major West End musical. Maureen lives in New York City, and when she is not writing, spends her time in a relentless pursuit of the perfect cup of coffee. If you know where it is, get in touch with her at once. (from Amazon)

Plot summary: Rory, a high school senior, moves to London from Louisiana and starts seeing ghosts. Along with detailed descriptions of London and life at school, Johnson has written an excellent mystery based on a Jack the Ripper copycat. Rory becomes an essential part of the very unusual murder investigation.

Booktalk: When Rory's parents accept jobs in England during her senior year, Rory decides to go along and attend boarding school in London. Despite having a great roommate, Rory has trouble adapting to the chilly weather and rigorous academics of her new home, but eventually starts to feel like she's fitting in. Unfortunately, that's right when a serial killer modeling himself on the notorious Jack the Ripper begins to terrorize London, and has designated Rory as his next target. Will Rory be able to stop him before anyone else dies? And will she be able to keep seeing Jerome??

Curriculum tie-ins:

History

Research Jack the Ripper and his effect on 1800s London, using primary sources such as newspaper articles.

Geography

Using a map of London or of the London Underground, follow Rory and the others' journey around London and through the tube. Show some of Rory's daily activities, like hockey practice.

Discussion Questions:

- Rory often feels nervous about fitting in at her new school and in English life in general. She tells exaggerated stories about her family in Louisiana to cope. How do you think you might handle fitting in at an all new place?
- Why do you think boarding schools are so common in young adult books?
- With whom do you identify more – Rory, Jazza, or Boo? How about Stephen or Callum?
- If you were to come back as a ghost now, where do you think you might “haunt”?
- Why do you think Jack the Ripper has remained so popular, even though the crimes he committed were over 120 years ago?
- Were you surprised to learn the truth about Alistair? Why or why not?

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Cach, Lisa. *Wake Unto Me*. Speak, 2011.

Hudson, Tara. *Hereafter*. HarperTeen, 2011.

McEntire, Myra. *Hourglass*. Egmont, 2011.

Moore, Alan & Eddie Campbell. *From Hell*. Top Shelf Productions, 2000.

Other books by this author:

13 Little Blue Envelopes. HarperTeen, 2005.

Devilish. Razorbill, 2006.

Girl at Sea. HarperTeen, 2007.

Suite Scarlet. Point, 2008.

The Last Little Blue Envelope. HarperTeen, 2011.

The Madness Underneath. Putnam, 2013. (part 2 in Shades of London series)

Additional resources:

Author’s website: www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com

<http://www.jack-the-ripper.org/>

<http://www.casebook.org/>

I HUNT KILLERS

by Barry Lyga



Genre: Mystery, Thriller, Suspense, Realistic Fiction, Horror

Themes: Family, Nature vs. Nurture, Redemption, Media, Psychological Abuse, Good and Evil

Author information: Barry Lyga lives in New York City, and is the best-selling author of eleven books. Lyga worked in the comic book industry after graduating from Yale University with a degree in English. He left this job to pursue writing, and published his first novel in 2006.

Plot summary: When Jasper Dent was growing up, every day was “take your son to work day.” Unfortunately for him, dear old dad was the country’s most prolific and notorious serial killer. It has been four years since Jasper’s dad was finally put behind bars, but now bodies are starting to show up in his little home town of Lobo’s Nod. Not only that, they are copycat killings highlighting the long career of Billy Dent. As the body count rises, all eyes turn to the local sociopath’s son. In *I Hunt Killers*, the best chance for Jasper to clear his name is to solve the crimes and catch the real murderer.

Booktalk: Jasper Francis Dent knows more ways to kill, torture, dismember, and hide a human body than almost anyone in the world. That’s what happens when you grow up as the son and potential protégé of the world’s most notorious serial killer. In the four years since Billy Dent was caught and sent to prison, Jasper has been trying to learn how to be “normal.” His life quickly changes when mutilated bodies begin showing up around town, copycats of crimes committed by dear old dad. With Billy’s voice in his head glorying in the carnage, Jasper decides that the only way to prove his innocence to himself and the world is to use his unique set of skills and knowledge to understand the crimes, and hunt the killer.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Science

Crime Scene Investigation/Biology: Discuss the many clues that a corpse holds to identify time, means, and location of death.

Health

Howie is a hemophiliac. What is hemophilia, and how does it affect the everyday life of those who have it? Have students describe how their everyday life would be different if they had hemophilia.

Sociology

Are behavior and personality determined by nature (genetics) or nurture? Jasper has the Dent genes, and was also raised by Billy. Discuss the possibility of him overcoming both nature and nurture.

English/Media

Write an article about a crime scene, real or imagined. What is the media's responsibility in an investigation: informing the public fully or protecting the integrity of the investigation? What is the difference between telling an exciting story and sensationalism?

Psychology

What is a psychopath? What is a sociopath? Jasper makes a conscious effort to think like "regular" people. Discuss how different mental profiles can affect morality. Have students write a description of an event from their point of view, and from the point of view of someone like Billy Dent. How do they differ?

Discussion Questions:

- Jasper keeps pictures of his father's victims on his bedroom wall. What purpose do you think they serve in his struggle for normalcy?
- When Billy was arrested, Jasper was thirteen. Why do you think he hadn't told anyone about his father's crimes?
- Jasper's best friend, Howie, is a hemophiliac. What compels the son of a serial killer to befriend someone so fragile?
- G. William worries that being around crime scenes will be bad for Jasper's mental well-being. Jasper believes that using his unique knowledge and skills to stop people like his father is his best chance to be normal. Who do you think is right? Can you argue both sides?
- Jasper first started dating Connie, because he thought the fact that she was black would protect her from him. If you are initially attracted to someone because of their race, is that racist?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Black, Holly. *White Cat*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2010.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Mr. Death's Blue-Eyed Girls*. Clarion, 2012.

Johnson, Maureen. *The Name of the Star*. Putnam, 2011. (on this year's GMBA list)

Roach, Mary. *Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers*. W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.

Wells, Dan. *I Am Not A Serial Killer*. Tor Books, 2010.

Other books by this author:

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy & Goth Girl. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Boy Toy. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Hero-Type. Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

Goth Girl Rising. Houghton Mifflin, 2009.

Archvillain series

Archvillain. Scholastic, 2010.

The Mad Mask. Scholastic, 2012.
Yesterday Again. Scholastic, 2013.

Jasper Dent series

I Hunt Killers. Little, Brown, 2012.
Game. Little, Brown, 2013.

Graphic Novel

Mangaman. Houghton Mifflin, 2011.

Additional resources:

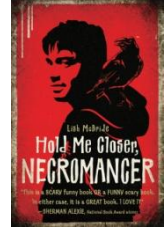
Author's website: <http://barrylyga.com/>

Publisher's website (with a great book trailer):

<http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/barry-lyga/i-hunt-killers/9780316125840/>

HOLD ME CLOSER, NECROMANCER

by Lish McBride



Genre: Fantasy, Humor

Themes: Family, Monsters, Secrets, Finding Yourself

Author information: Lish McBride grew up in the Pacific Northwest and attended the University of New Orleans, where she managed to both survive Hurricane Katrina and finish her MFA in fiction. A self-described geek, she is a big fan of movies, comics and zombies. *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer*, her debut novel, was named an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and was a finalist for the William C. Morris Award. McBride currently lives in Seattle with her family, two cats, and a dog.

Plot summary: Sam thinks he's just an average guy working a fast-food job trying to get by when an accidental encounter with a dangerous necromancer forces him to face some uncomfortable truths about himself. Joining forces with his childhood buddy, an unfortunate undead friend, and a hot werewolf girl, Sam must summon his courage to use his newfound necromancing powers to fight the darkest of evils.

Booktalk: Sam LaCroix is not exactly living the high life. A college dropout with a dead-end job, he's rocking what he calls the "Top Ramen lifestyle." Then one afternoon, on a break from his shift at the local burger joint, Sam and his friends are fooling around in the parking lot and inadvertently break a tail light on an expensive car. When the car's owner comes looking for him, Sam is expecting trouble, but what he gets is far worse: the owner is Douglas, one of the world's most powerful necromancers, and he recognizes Sam as one of his own. When Douglas tries to turn Sam to the dark side, Sam must tap into powers he didn't even know he had.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Art

Draw your vision of a werewolf-fey hybrid and compare it to depictions of more traditional werewolves and fairies throughout history.

English

Investigate the history of necromancy in literature and mythology. Write another scene from the book in which Sam finds a new use for his powers.

Sam and his friends often use humor to diffuse a difficult situation. Write about a time when this strategy worked for you.

Discussion questions:

- Sam's powers have been limited by binding spells administered by his mom and uncle. How do people we love intentionally or inadvertently bind our powers?

- In what way are names a source of power in the book?
- Both Sam and Brin, his half-werewolf friend, have to acknowledge their special abilities and assume leadership roles. Why did they find this difficult? What similar experiences have you had?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Chima, Cinda Williams. *The Warrior Heir*. Hyperion, 2006.

Clare, Cassandra. *City of Bones*. McElderry, 2007.

Kenyon, Sherrilyn. *Infinity:Chronicles of Nick*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.

Yancy, Rick. *The Monstrumologist*. S & S, 2010.

Yovanoff, Brenna. *The Replacement*. Razorbill, 2010.

Other books by this author:

Necromancing the Stone. Holt, 2012.

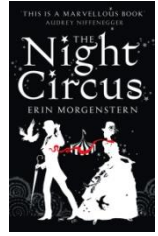
Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.lishmcbride.com/blog>

<http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Necromancy.html>

NIGHT CIRCUS

by Erin Morgenstern



Genre: Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Some Steampunk Influences, Romance

Themes: Competition, Magic: Dark and Light, Love Against the Odds, Fate

Author information: Erin Morgenstern is a whimsical creature, drawn to fantasy and fairy tales, cats, tarot cards, astrology, reading, and tea. She is a writer and artist transplanted from Massachusetts to New York City.

Plot summary: Celia and Marco are pitted against each other in a duel unlike any other, a magical duel that will last an undisclosed time and affect thousands of people over years and years. Their arena: *Le Cirque des Reves*, a circus of the night designed by architects and midnight dreamers, but kept alive by magic. At the beginning, they battle by creating tents to topple the other, but then, a strange thing happens; their magical tents serve as inspired gifts for one another as the competition fades away and love takes hold. But one thing remains true, at the end of this ill-fated competition, only one of these magical warriors can be left standing.

Booktalk: A whimsical, thrilling tale of a magical duel, a circus alive with illusion and secrets set in the dark of the nighttime, jaunts around the world, and a cast of characters that will both baffle you and win your hearts; *Night Circus* is a wild, wonderful read. Reminiscent of *Harry Potter*, and *Alice in Wonderland*, *Night Circus* is a perfect pick for the grown up kids who have exhausted Rowling's repertoire, but not their own need for magic.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Writing/English

Using Morgenstern as inspiration, have students participate in one of the following two writing experiences.

Flax-golden Tales: Morgenstern writes what she calls "10 sentence flash fiction pieces inspired by photos." Provide a variety of photo prompts and have students create a 10 sentence story using the photo to guide their plot.

Nanowrimo: Early in her career, Morgenstern sketched out a version of the book during nanowrimo, or National Novel Writing Month. Create a mini-version of this, or do a month of writing. The idea is just to get ideas out on paper and edit after, not censoring while writing. At the end of the designated period of time, students can read through and determine what nuggets of writing are the strongest and revisit those in the editing process.

History

Explore famous duels in history, and create a visual representation of this duel. Focus not only on the details of the people, but make sure to include details of the world that surrounded the duel and whether the time and location added fuel to the duel!

Art

Have students create a 3-D tent that they would like to see at the circus. Add magical, whimsical details and characters that would go along with the tent. When students are finished, display their tents together and create a mini-circus.

Discussion Questions:

- Morgenstern is extremely successful at world creation, giving us a vibrant and delicious insider's view of this other-worldly circus. What are the most memorable aspects of the circus for you? Which tents would you visit? What would you eat? What do you think the circus would smell like/sound like/feel like?
- How long do you think this competition has gone on? Why do you think these two men continue to engage in this type of completion? What do they get out of it?
- The performers and those who began the circus are tied to it unknowingly because of the competition, sometimes ending in disastrous and deadly results. Do you think it's right for this secret of the competition to be kept from them? Do you think Celia and Marco know their own responsibility for the lives of those in the circus?
- What role do Poppet and Widget play in the success and fate of the circus?
- What do you imagine happens after the book ends? What does fate hold for Bailey and the rest of the members of the circus?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Bantock, Nick. *Griffin and Sabine: An Extraordinary Correspondence*. Chronicle Books, 1991.
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*. Macmillan, 1965.
Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Quirk Books, 2011.
Russell, Karen. *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. Knopf, 2006.
Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Knopf, 2006.

Other books by this author:

This is Erin Morgenstern's debut novel.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://erinmorgenstern.com/the-night-circus/>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/erinmorgenstern#>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/erinmorgenstern>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/erinmorgensternbooks>

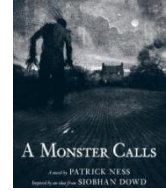
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chimeraesque/>

Nanowrimo website. Erin began writing the book during Nanowrimo, or National Novel

Writing Month, where you commit to trying to begin and finish a book during the month of November: <http://www.nanowrimo.org/>

A playlist inspired by the book: <http://erinmorgenstern.com/2011/11/playlist/>

A MONSTER CALLS
by Patrick Ness, inspired by an idea by Siobhan Dowd
illustrated by Jim Kay



Genre: Fantasy

Themes: Fear, Grief, Bullying, Coping, Mythology, Storytelling, Illness (Cancer), Death and Dying

Author information: Patrick sums it up pretty well himself (taken from patrickness.com/faq)... “I’m Patrick Ness, born at the stroke of midnight on the new millennium, suckled by wolves (well, a wolf and an open-minded Weimaraner), and schooled by Jesuit mermaids. I’m from America, live in England, and am a blending of both (with a firm genetic trunk of Norwegian. It’s why I’m tall and freckly. Skol!). I’ve had lots of jobs but won’t bore you with the usual wacky list, though I did teach creative writing at Oxford University for three years. Which wasn’t even remotely wacky. At all. Currently, I write books.”

Siobhan Dowd: Siobhan Dowd was a British writer and activist. Her book, *Bog Child*, won the 2009 Carnegie Medal. Prior to her 2007 death from breast cancer, she set up a trust where all the proceeds from her books go to help disadvantaged youth with their reading skills.

Plot summary: Conor is haunted every night by a horrific nightmare, a monstrous nightmare, one he can’t bear to face in the light of day. Conor’s waking moments are enough to shake anyone, since his mother’s diagnosis of terminal cancer, and the subsequent social fallout at school that causes him to be bloodied by bullies on a daily basis. But one night, a mythical ancient tree comes to life and demands that Conor face the truth of his life. A beautiful and sometimes terrifying story of fear, grief, and inevitably, acceptance.

Booktalk: Conor, Conor...he hears his name called from the cemetery, in a voice, ancient, filled with history and horror. Conor...but Conor has seen and heard much worse, and those are the nightmares he can’t speak of, the ones that keep him awake with fear, fear of what’s out there, and fear of what he will have to do to make it all stop.

Curriculum tie-ins:

English/Creative Writing

The way this book was written is one of the most powerful aspects of the book. Siobhan Dowd had the idea and many notes on how she would like the book to play out. Sadly, she passed away before the book could be written but asked that another author continue where she left off. Patrick Ness took this charge and created the novel we read today. Have one student sketch the plot of a story; develop some characters and key points to the story. Then, pass these notes to another student and have them create the story from there, including material from the first author, but adding their own ideas and personality to the mix.

Science

Examine and research the healing powers of the yew tree (the type of tree that manifests as the monster.) Ness speaks about how the yew tree has been used in treatments for terminal diseases. Also, create a display of, or grow other plants that have medicinal or healing powers.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think the Monster is real or a manifestation of Conor's mind? Does it matter?
- Why do Conor's schoolmates bully him? How would you respond if you found out someone you knew had a family member with a terminal illness?
- What is harder to deal with, death or the fear of death? How does the fear of death affect Conor's life? How does this resolve at the close of the book?
- This book has inky, dark, mysterious illustrations. What do you think these illustrations add to the story? Why was this illustrator chosen?
- Storytelling is a huge part of this book. Why do you feel the monster shared the stories he did? Why were these stories important for Conor to hear?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. Harper Collins, 2009

Kelly, Joe. *I Kill Giants*. Image Comics, 2009

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2009

Other books by this author:

Patrick Ness:

The Knife of Never Letting Go. Candlewick, 2008.

The Ask and the Answer. Candlewick, 2009.

Monsters of Men. Candlewick, 2010.

The Crane Wife. Cannongate, 2013.

Siobhan Dowd:

A Swift Pure Cry. David Fickling Books, 2006.

The London Eye Mystery. David Fickling Books, 2007.

Bog Child. David Fickling Books, 2008.

Solace of the Road. David Fickling Books, 2009.

Additional resources:

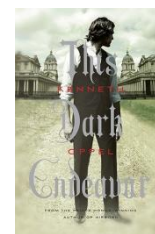
Author's website: <http://www.patrickness.com/>

Siobhan Dowd website: <http://www.siobhandowdtrust.com/>

Illustrator Jim Kay's Website: <http://www.jimkay.co.uk/>

Book Page at Candlewick with Discussion Guides and other valuable resources:
<http://www.candlewick.com/cat.asp?mode=book&isbn=0763655597&browse=Title>

THIS DARK ENDEAVOR by Kenneth Oppel



Genre: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Gothic Horror, Historical Fiction

Themes: Coming of Age, Family, Sibling Rivalry, Ambition vs. Greed, Jealousy, Romance, Death

Author information: Kenneth Oppel is the author of numerous books for young readers. His award-winning Silverwing trilogy has sold over a million copies worldwide, and been adapted as an animated TV series and stage play. *Airborn* was winner of a Michael L. Printz Honor Book Award, and the Canadian Governor General's Award for Children's Literature; its sequel, *Skybreaker*, was a New York Times bestseller and was named Children's Novel of the Year by the London Times. His most recent books are this one and *Such Wicked Intent*, both prequels to the gothic classic *Frankenstein*. Born on Vancouver Island, he has lived in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, England, Ireland, and now lives in Toronto with his wife and children.
(http://www.amazon.com/Kenneth-Oppel/e/B001ILKEV0/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0)

Plot summary: This book serves as a prequel to the classic, Gothic horror story *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Victor and his twin brother, Konrad, are inseparable. During one of their adventures into the depths of their massive, palatial home, they discover a dark library that holds tomes on the forbidden art of Alchemy. Discovering them in the library, their father forbids them to ever enter it again, lest they be tempted by its horrible power. When Konrad falls ill, however, Victor and his childhood friends Elizabeth and Henry brave Lord Frankenstein's anger and the temptations of the library to search for a way to save Konrad's life.

The question is, can Victor make the sacrifices required and brave the dangers of finding the ingredients for the Elixir of Life without losing himself in the process?

Booktalk: Unbelievable power rests at my fingertips, and the only thing keeping me from it are old notions about it being wrong. I could be master of life and death, if it weren't for the stupid fears of stodgy old men and frightened grandmothers. I can save my brother's life and finally remove myself from his shadow, and all I have to do is disobey my father, climb the highest tree on the highest mountain, plumb the deepest caverns of the earth and make one sacrifice. Then the name Victor Frankenstein will be remembered forever.

Curriculum tie-ins:

English

Does this work as a prequel to *Frankenstein*? Compare and contrast the two stories (obviously removing the more modern language in *This Dark Endeavor* as a factor).

History

Examine beliefs about alchemy and science in the Enlightenment and Victorian eras.

Science

Study scientific practices in the Enlightenment and Victorian eras: ethics, advancements (vs. religious beliefs), and development of the Hypothetico-deductive model.

Discussion questions:

- Are Victor's Father's concerns about Alchemy valid?
- Does Victor actually love Elizabeth? Why or why not?
- If the books in the Bibliotheca Obscura are so dangerous, why would Victor's father not just destroy them?
- How does Victor wish he were more like Konrad?
- How is Victor's sacrifice significant?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Priest, Cherie. *Boneshaker*. Tor, 2010.
Sedgewick, Marcus. *White Crow*. Roaring Brook, 2011.
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. (several editions available)
Trent, Tiffany. *The Unnaturalists*. S & S, 2012.

Other books by this author:

The Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein series
Such Wicked Intent. S & S, 2012.

Half Brother. Scholastic Press, 2010.

The Silverwing Saga
Silverwing. S & S, 1997.
Sunwing. S & S, 2000.
Firewing. S & S, 2003.
Darkwing. HarperCollins, 2007. (known as *Dusk* in UK)

Airborn series
Airborn. EOS, 2004.
Skybreaker. EOS, 2005.
Starclimber. EOS, 2009.

Additional resources:

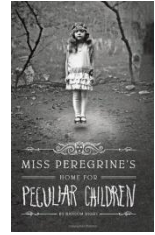
Author's website: <http://www.kennethoppel.ca/>

Frankenstein: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankenstein>

Information on historical Alchemy: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchemy>

MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

by Ransom Riggs



Genre: Horror, Magical Realism, Supernatural

Themes: Coming of Age, Death, Friendship, Independence, Photography

Author information: Ransom Riggs grew up in Maryland and Florida, where he wrote stories and made videos in the backyard with his friends. In high school he went to the University of Virginia's Young Writer's Workshop, and he then studied English at Kenyon College in Ohio. Later he went to film school at the University of Southern California. Today he writes books, makes movies, and blogs for mentalfloss.com.

Plot summary: When sixteen-year-old Jacob sees a monster at the scene of his grandfather's death, he is filled with questions – questions that lead him to a tiny island off the coast of Wales in search of clues to his grandfather's past. There he discovers a magical secret and befriends a group of peculiar children. When it becomes apparent that the children are in danger, Jacob must use his own peculiar powers to help keep them safe.

Booktalk: “Find the bird. In the loop. On the other side of the old man's grave. September third, 1940.” These words are the last thing Jacob's grandfather ever says to him, and they make about as much sense to him as they make to you and me. But it's these words that start Jacob on a journey, to Wales, to an abandoned orphanage, to a time loop, and to some very peculiar people in some *very* grave danger. Interspersed with peculiar photographs [*show one or two*], *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will fascinate you and leave your spine tingling.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Art

Use digital photography and computer image manipulation to create “peculiar” photographs of your own.

Biology

Jacob's father goes to the island with Jacob because he's interested in a bird called the Manx Shearwater, and fifty percent of its population makes its home there. What birds are most populous in your area? Choose one and research its biology and behavior.

Psychology

Jacob and his grandfather both experience traumas prior to their extraordinary experiences: his grandfather, the war, and Jacob, his grandfather's death. Research post-traumatic stress disorder, and write a paper applying what you've learned to the characters' experiences in the book.

Social Studies

In the book, Jacob's grandfather is believed to have lived in an orphanage for Jewish children during WWII. Research the *Kindertransport* relocation of Jewish children prior to WWII, as well as what happens to unaccompanied refugee minors today.

Discussion Questions:

- This book has photographs interspersed with the text. Why did the author choose to add these pictures in? How did they influence your understanding of the story?
- Early on in the book, Jacob and his friend Ricky get in an argument about what Jacob claims he saw. Does Ricky have a right to be angry? Does Jacob? Discuss how it would feel to be on either side of the argument.
- Martin Pagett, the museum curator, tells Jacob that the Old Man's people "believed that bogs... were entrances to the world of the gods, and so the perfect place to offer up their most precious gift: themselves (90)." How does this belief relate to what Jacob finds in the bogs? Does he offer himself up to them?
- How does the author use the weather throughout the book to depict other aspects of the setting?
- Why do you think the author names the ymbrynes after birds? What gives these women birdlike qualities?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Connolly, John. *The Book of Lost Things*. S & S, 2011.

Danielewski, Mark Z. *House of Leaves*. Pantheon, 2000.

Link, Kelly. *Pretty Monsters*. Speak, 2010.

Morgenstern, Erin. *The Night Circus*. Anchor Books, 2012. (on this year's GMBA list)

Russell, Karen. *Vampires in the Lemon Grove: Stories*. Knopf, 2013.

Yancey, Rick. *The Monstrumologist*. S & S, 2010.

Other books by this author:

The Sherlock Holmes Handbook: The Methods and Mysteries of the World's Greatest Detective. Quirk, 2009.

Talking Pictures: Images and Messages Rescued from the Past. HarperCollins, 2012.

Additional resources:

Random, Interesting, Amazing Facts – Mental Floss. <http://www.mentalfloss.com/>

Ransom Riggs – Blog. <http://www.ransomriggs.com/>

Ransom Riggs – Blog – *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

<http://www.ransomriggs.com/blog/2011/1/7/miss-peregrines-home-for-peculiar-children.html>

THE SCHOOL FOR DANGEROUS GIRLS

by Eliot Schrefer



Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Themes: Survival, Friendship, Psychology, Delinquency, Mental Health

Author information: Eliot Schrefer is a resident of New York City and an honors graduate of Harvard College. A contributor to *The Huffington Post* and a reviewer for *USA Today*, Eliot has been profiled in *Newsweek*, *New York Magazine*, the *New York Post*, *WWD*, and NPR's "Leonard Lopate Show." His first novel, *Glamorous Disasters*, became an international bestseller. He has since been writing for young adults. His books have been translated into Russian, Polish, Romanian, and German. (from Amazon).

Plot summary: When Angela's parents pack her off to reform school, they are obviously hoping she'll be able to turn her life around at no inconvenience to them. When it turns out that the school isn't all that concerned about reform or students' welfare, Angela realizes she needs to keep her edge and stay dangerous in order to navigate her treacherous new world.

Booktalk: How dangerous could you be in order to survive? In *The School for Dangerous Girls*, that's the answer Angela has to figure out for herself. After an unfortunate confrontation between her loser boyfriend and her grandfather, Angela's parents send her to a boarding school for bad girls, where it seems there are no rules and every day is a struggle. In a place where even her closest friends are treacherous and the teachers are out to get her, how will Angela win back her freedom?

Curriculum tie-ins:

Language Arts

Write a letter home from one of the other girls, such as Carmen, Juin or Riley. Who would they write to? What would they tell their parents?

Discussion Questions:

- If you were sent to Hidden Oak, would you make it to the golden thread? How quickly?
- Do you think Juin did the right thing when she pushed Carmen off the roof? How far have you gone to save yourself from getting in trouble?
- Would you have stayed at Hidden Oak to try to rescue the other girls, or would you have tried to get yourself out?
- At one point, Angela speculates that learning good breeding and manners is like "learning how to be weak." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Twisted*. Viking, 2007.

McAulay, Alex. *Bad Girls*. MTV Books, 2005.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. FSG, 1998.

Other books by this author:

Glamorous Disasters. S & S, 2006.

The New Kid. S & S, 2007.

The Deadly Sister. Scholastic Press, 2010.

Additional resources:

Author's website: www.eliotshrefer.com

THE SCORPIO RACES

by Maggie Stiefvater



Genre: Fantasy

Themes: Forgiveness, Identity, Belonging, Courage, Trust

Author information: Born November 18, 1981, Maggie Stiefvater is a well-known young adult author. Since graduating from the University of Mary Washington with a B.A. in Art History, she has worked as a portrait artist and novelist. She now lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children.

Plot summary: At the start of every November are the Scorpio Races, a dangerous race along the ocean shore atop capaill uisce – flesh-eating water horses which come from the sea. This year will be Puck Connolly’s first year riding-as the first girl ever to participate in the race. She prepares for the race under the tutelage of Sean Kendrick, four time winner of the Scorpio Races. With much at stake for both of them, and with the knowledge that there can only be one winner, the two dedicate themselves to their training as their bond of friendship grows stronger.

Booktalk: Puck Connolly never meant to be the first girl ever to ride in the Scorpio Races, a fearsome competition which takes place at the beginning of each November. It was not her intention to race along the shore amid other riders atop capaill uisce – flesh-eating water horses from the sea. In order to have any hope of survival, Puck must elicit the help of Sean Kendrick, four time champion of the Races, to teach her how to survive. With much at stake for both Sean and Puck, their burgeoning friendship will be tested as there can only be one winner of the Scorpio Races.

Curriculum tie-ins:

English

The Scorpio Races is a modern adaptation of old folklore. Write a short story focusing on creating a modern tale using old mythology.

Social Studies

Throughout history there have been many famous horse races all over the world. Research several of these, and compare common themes found both in the real races, and in the Scorpio Races. What do the similarities and differences tell us about human nature?

Discussion Questions:

- Water plays a key role in the story. What could water symbolize? Does the symbolic meaning of the water change in regards to different characters?
- Trust and love are two themes that feature in the story. Sean loves Corr, yet he warns Puck not to trust him. Supported by this scenario, do you think it is possible to love without trust?

- Why do you think Maggie Stiefvater chose the butcher shop as the location where people sign up for the Scorpio Races? What symbolic meaning can be found in the location?
- Why did Puck and Sean each need the prize money from the race? Who do you think deserved it or needed it more?
- Why do you think Corr chose to return to Sean rather than to the sea? What does this show about Sean's character?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Billingsley, Franny. *Chime*. Dial, 2011.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina*. Random House, 2012. (on this year's GMBA list)

Marchetta, Melina. *Finnikin of the Rock*. Viking, 2008.

Taylor, Laini. *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. Little, Brown, 2011.

Other books by this author:

Books of Fairie. Scholastic, 2008.

The Shiver Trilogy. Scholastic, 2010.

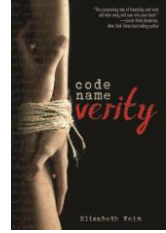
The Raven Boys. Scholastic, 2012.

Additional resources:

Author's website: www.maggiestiefvater.com/the-scorpio-races/the-scorpio-races/

CODE NAME VERITY

by Elizabeth Wein



Genre: Historical Fiction

Themes: World War II, Aviation, Spies, Friendship

Author information: Elizabeth Wein was born in the US but lives in Scotland with her English husband and two children. She has written many acclaimed books including the “Mark of Solomon” sequence. She has a PhD in Folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and shares a love of aviation with her husband.

Plot summary: Under interrogation of the Nazis, captured spy “Verity” must reveal her mission or face brutal execution. As Verity (aka Julie, aka Scottie, aka Queenie) documents her experiences, her captors learn the genesis of her spy work and her friendship with beloved Maddie whom she left on a French field in a wrecked plane. While Verity confesses, she also reveals her thoughts on bravery, friendship, loyalty and love and unexpected truths for all her readers. Maddie by turn ends up with Julie’s ID papers and finds her way through the French resistance, and displays her own devotion and courage as she acts her way on the ground instead of in the air where she belonged.

Booktalk: “Finding your best friend is like falling in love.” Not what you expect from a World War II spy novel, and not what “Verity’s” Nazi captors expect either. Dashing over the Atlantic for undercover operations provides the thrills for Julie (code name: Verity), supported (literally and emotionally) by her unlikely comrade Maddie. When Verity gets discovered in occupied France, it is her devotion to Maddie that helps her endure the torture and degradation of capture.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Music

Bach? WWII Bandstand? Pull out the musical elements and see how the music adds to the theme of the story. Here’s a few links from the *Code Name Verity* blog to get you started:

‘The Last Time I Saw Paris’ (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RTh7gRXWo%20/>)

‘Dream a Little Dream of Me’ (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AqkSg1EU-0>)

Here’s the Mendelssohn from *Colonel Blimp* that makes Verity cry.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnNDdy234yE&feature=share&list=PL92B0A7816E3AB5DB>)

Art

Design the perfect spy outfit for someone to infiltrate your high school today. What would a boy or girl have to wear? What would they need to avoid? Keep in mind the details such as labels and sizes that Queenie mentions in her descriptions to Maddie. Or, using the knitting patterns in the links below, create your own “World War II jumper” such as Julie and her brothers wore.

Discussion questions:

- How does Verity resist the torture and treatment of the Nazi prison? Give examples of her defiance. Why do you think she does this?
- How does the author demonstrate the social distinctions between Julie and Maddie? Give some examples. Does this seem realistic? Do such distinctions exist today?
- Describe the activities of the British agents in occupied France.
- What seems to be the most difficult part of Maddie's experience in France?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. David Fickling Books, 2006.

Lawrence, Iain. *B is for Buster*. Random House, 2007.

Peet, Mal. *Tamar*. Candlewick Press, 2008.

Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2004.

Other books by this author:

Rose Under Fire. Hyperion, 2013. (Companion volume to *Code Name Verity*)

The Lion Hunters: The Arthurian/Aksumite Cycle

The Winter Prince. Atheneum, 1993.

A Coalition of Lions. Viking, 2003.

The Sunbird. Viking, 2004.

The Lion Hunter. Viking, 2007.

The Empty Kingdom. Viking, 2008.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.elizabethwein.com/>

<http://www.thevintageknittinglady.co.uk/aranLadies.html>

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/29219/11-women-warriors-world-war-ii>

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/home/mi5-history/world-war-ii.html>

Green Mountain Book Award

Checklist, 2013-2014

Check the boxes as you read the books. You **MUST** read at least three titles on this list to vote.

<input type="checkbox"/> Andrews, Jesse	<i>Me and Earl and the Dying Girl</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Blake, Kendare	<i>Anna Dressed in Blood</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bray, Libba	<i>Beauty Queens</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Green, John	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hartman, Rachel	<i>Seraphina</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Johnson, Maureen	<i>The Name of the Star</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lyga, Barry	<i>I Hunt Killers</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> McBride, Lish	<i>Hold Me Closer, Necromancer</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Morgenstern, Erin	<i>Night Circus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ness, Patrick	<i>A Monster Calls</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Oppel, Kenneth	<i>This Dark Endeavor</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Riggs, Ransom	<i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Schreier, Eliot	<i>The School for Dangerous Girls</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Stiefvater, Maggie	<i>Scorpio Races</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wein, Elizabeth	<i>Code Name Verity</i>